



Regular Meeting Minutes
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, October 5, 2005
Via Linda Senior Center
Room 1
10400 E. Via Linda

Present: Chairperson Donn Loper, Vice-chair Dean Cerimeli, Commissioners Shelley Anderson, John Faramelli, and Ron King

Absent: Commissioner Stephen Owens

Staff present: Leslie Clark, Liz Hildenbrand, Bill Murphy, Reed Pryor, Karen Rumore, and Judy Weiss

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Loper called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairperson Loper asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Regular Meeting of September 7, 2005

Chairperson Loper noted on page 2 paragraph 1, the third sentence should read **former** councilman.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Vice-chair Cerimeli seconded and the motion carried with a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

COSPONSORSHIP REQUEST – SCOTTSDALE HEALTHCARE COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES “GETTING HEALTHY TOGETHER” CORPORATE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT.

Kathleen Corea, Assistant Recreation Coordinator, presented the Scottsdale Healthcare Community Health Services (SHCHS), Corporate Softball Tournament, request for City co-sponsorship. The event is part of SHCHS's ongoing program “Getting Healthy Together”, which encourages the community to eat healthier and participate in activities that may help prevent obesity. The event is scheduled for Saturday, October 15, 2005. Chaparral Park is the host venue of this 16-team tournament. Total cost of this event without co-sponsorship is \$269.50. Scottsdale Healthcare Community Health Services is asking the Parks & Recreation Commission to waive park fees totaling \$165. Out-of-pocket park costs for the event is \$104.50 and will be paid by the applicant. Jamie Ambrose, Manager Occupational Health for Scottsdale Healthcare, was present to answer any questions from the Commission.

Vice-chair Cerimeli asked what age group is the tournament for. Ms. Ambrose said it was primarily adults, as it is a participating employer/employee event.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the co-sponsorship request and to waive \$165 in usage fees as submitted. Commissioner Faramelli seconded and the motion carried with a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

RECONSIDERATION OF THE MESCAL PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

At the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on June 15, 2005, the Commission voted to recommend to the City Council that the Master Plan be amended to include lighting for the arena at Mescal Park and to bring the park to standards of other equestrian parks in the City. The Commission also voted to recommend to the City Council that it adopt such ordinances as may be necessary to allow non-exclusive equestrian use of the basin area of Mescal Park. Judy Weiss, Parks and Recreation Director, and Bill Murphy, Parks and Grounds Management Director will present new information to the Commission regarding issues relating to the recommendations made in respect to Mescal Park. Ms. Weiss also noted that staff may have been premature in bringing this issue to the Commission in June. In the zeal to resolve this issue for the neighborhood, all of the issues were not clear at that time. With the new information that has come forward since that time, staff thought it prudent to return to the Commission.

Chairperson Loper asked if the new information is the compromise. Ms. Weiss said that was one piece. Risk Management assessment, confirmation from City Attorney on Ordinance changes, and additional meetings with the neighbors are other pieces of new information. Other information includes the demographics of the area and park attendance data.

Vice-chair Cerimeli noted the first 2 new information items don't have an affect on the Commission's first go around decision. Ms. Weiss said that was correct with the exception of the necessity for wording changes to the Ordinance. Vice-chair Cerimeli noted 3 of the above items would affect the previous decision. Ms. Weiss said that is correct. Ms. Weiss noted that staff didn't do an analysis on the petitions as to residency. Vice-chair Cerimeli noted one petition has 314 signatures of people in the area that want the lights and the usage of the basin. Ms. Weiss noted that residents of Cavecreek, Phoenix, and South Scottsdale signed the petition also. Vice-chair Cerimeli noted that the Commission will base their decision to change the original recommendation on public testimony. Ms. Weiss said staff sent as much information as they could so the Commission could analyze it. Chairperson Loper noted he went to the Maricopa County Assessor's website and researched the addresses.

Commissioner King said the legal issues on the ordinance are that the equestrian area does not allow mixed use. Ms. Weiss said it would be mixed as it is talking about non-exclusive use.

Commissioner Faramelli asked what the process is after this evening's meeting. Ms. Weiss said the issue will be brought to the Planning Commission and the City Council if a Master Plan amendment is needed. Commissioner Faramelli asked if we have an existing Master Plan. Ms. Weiss said yes and it was approved in 1986.

Chairperson Loper noted the Commission received another petition today with copies of microfiche of Case 150DR86 and wondered if that was the Master Plan. Ms. Weiss it is the Development Review Board case in 1986 and is boilerplate information.

Commissioner Faramelli asked if after the Commission is done tonight this then goes to the Planning Commission then on to the City Council. Ms. Weiss said that was correct.

Commissioner Anderson noted that was only if there is a change from the original recommendation. Ms. Weiss said the only way to add lights is to modify the Master Plan. Commissioner Anderson asked if other recommendations do not require a Master Plan change. Ms. Weiss said they could.

Chairperson Loper noted the agenda from the June 15th meeting stated the Commission would make a recommendation to City Council. Ms. Weiss noted that the Commission makes recommendations to the City Council, as does the Planning Commission. Chairperson Loper asked if this was 2 parallel recommendations. Ms. Weiss said that was correct.

Commissioner King asked if the lights have to go to Development Review Board for approval. Ms. Weiss said they do. Commissioner King noted that would be another opportunity for public input. Ms. Weiss said that was correct and it would be after Council approval.

Vice-chair Cerimeli asked if there were no motion tonight then the original motion would be - 1 to Planning then 1 to Council. Ms. Weiss said that was correct. The designation for use of the grass basin by equestrians is not a Master Plan issue.

Ms. Weiss reviewed the petitions submitted. Four were turned in - 1 with a compromise for riding in the grass and no lights; 1 for not riding in the grass basin for safety reasons; 1 for lights and riding in the grass basin; and 1 for no lights at all.

Chairperson Loper noted these petitions were submitted under the guise of having 14 opponents of riding in the basin who were bordering Mescal Park. He visited the Assessor's website and of all the signatures, only 4 border Mescal Park and 4 signatures represented 3 homeowners; on the petition with 206 opponents of lights, 108 are renters in the Pueblo Norte Apartments; the petition for a compromise for use says it represents residents surrounding the park and it has a signature from a resident on the other side of Shea and 2 are duplicates; the petition with 314 signatures has some on 34th Street and from Cavecreek. Chairperson Loper noted he doesn't know what to do with these.

Chairperson Loper called for public testimony.

Trevor Askew of Etel lighting was asked by a resident to do a survey of the property. He took measurements for light in the arena. He submitted those into designs and programs for necessary foot-candles and found that 30-foot-candles was generally acceptable. He extended that to bordering houses and apartments and found that light was 0.1-foot candle, which is immeasurable. Any designer with proper knowledge can ensure a safe environment and see that the residents are not affected. Commissioner Faramelli asked what was the number used. Mr. Askew said it was a minimum 30-foot candle and that is what is needed in a recreational setting. Commissioner Faramelli asked what height the poles would be. Mr. Askew said he submitted 25-foot light poles but they probably could be lower. Commissioner Faramelli asked if the light source would have a shield. Mr. Askew said they have shields. Chairperson Loper noted the assumption was the lighting in the middle of the arena was going to be 30-foot-candles. Commissioner Anderson asked if Mr. Askew was paid. Mr. Askew said he was not paid. Commissioner Anderson asked who contacted him. Mr. Askew said Ida Goldstein called him.

Sophia Duly noted the signature on the petition that was from the other side of Shea is Ms. Phillips and she has a horse in the neighborhood because her parents have horses there and she rides there often. She noted this is a passionate issue with many things going on. She supports the compromise as it makes the neighborhood happy. She travels around and shows horses around the country and is nationally ranked. It is important to exercise horses in a larger environment than the arena. It gets crowded in arena. The lights compromise is a good thing. If it makes the neighbors unhappy and it is not a hardship on her, she feels not having the lights is fine.

Wanda Garret - 6502 E. Paradise – has lived there since 1969 and in this house since 1973 and has horses. If you look at the neighborhood there are other lights – she went ½ mile west and found lights in backyards, sports courts with box lights, lights under construction, tennis courts with lights, etc. There are APS lights on poles. There are already lights in the neighborhood at this time. Chairperson Loper asked if she supports the lights. Ms. Garrett said she is fine with light as they give her no problems.

Scott Graham - 10651 E San Salvador, ASUSC, - noted that 2 teams use the basin for soccer practice from 4:30 to 6 pm Mondays and Thursdays. The group is pro-lights and pro open fields for kids to use as well as anti-collision for kids and big things like horses. He is concerned about the joint use and potential loss of field space and horse droppings. Any dollars spent decreases funds for other fields. Commissioner Anderson noted she understood this wasn't designed for soccer. Ms. Weiss said it is a Neighborhood Park and designed for neighborhood recreational uses. Mr. Graham said, with 230 teams, it is nearly impossible to rule out any open space for use by teams. This is one site that is used for practices. Commissioner Anderson noted maybe some places are inappropriate for that type of use. Ms.

Weiss said this is a Neighborhood Park. Teams are desperate for playing spaces. The City does not schedule practices. The teams organize the practices themselves. This is a 10-acre park with 8 acres in the basin. There should be room for everyone. Mr. Graham said 2 teams are practicing there at the same time. The teams are encouraged to sign up for scheduled space but there isn't enough so they go where they can. Commissioner Anderson said there are so few parks for equestrians and there are so many other facilities. She can't understand why there isn't a place allowed for horses that is danger-free. Ms. Weiss said we are not talking about exclusive uses. Commissioner Faramelli asked, if equestrians are allowed to use basin, will there have to be signs prohibiting this type of activity. Ms. Weiss said Risk Management considered all sides and has called for a pilot program. These activities have been going on many years with no injuries that we are aware of to date.

Steve Sullivan - 7001 E Paradise Drive – lives not far from Park. He likes the fact that he doesn't have to cross any major streets to get to the park. He has horses and has used the park for riding and jogging. He moved to this area a couple of years ago because it was horse friendly. He does use the park regularly, and uses the other areas as well. It is getting harder to find decent places to ride. Developments are choking off trails in the northeast and it is crowded and there is a problem with motorcycles and ATVs. He is in favor of the lights. For a good part of year it is dark by the time people get off work. If you don't have lights it limits the opportunity to ride. He is in favor of riding in basin, as it enlarges the riding area and you can do some things you can't do on the trail. Most of time no one or very few people are there. There is no great burden having horses in the basin. Chairperson Loper asked if he trailered his horse to the park. Mr. Sullivan said he didn't. Commissioner King asked what time he thought the lights should be turned off. Mr. Sullivan said 9 pm would be fine.

Bill Bridwell - 7031 E. Cholla – has lived there since 1969. He stated he didn't care about lights one way or another. The basin is an accident looking for a place to happen. Balls and horses don't work well together. The grass area is almost a must for riders. Riders are being choked out of almost every place in Scottsdale. We gave up Cholla Park to build Westworld; the rodeo grounds were swapped out. Riders cannot use Westworld at all. This is the last stand. We need the lights. This is the only place we can ride. People need to get out and use the park. Riders try to ride on trail with old folks hobbling along with dogs, kids etc., it is not safe. The only safe place is in the grass so we must have both. Vice-chair Cerimeli asked if Mr. Bridwell has ridden in the CAP basin. Mr. Bridwell said he has not.

Tracey House - 11439 N, 58th Place – is ½ block from park. She rides 4 times a week is strongly in favor of lights and riding in grass basin. This needs to be preserved for horse uses. There is only one other park for equestrians. There are 47 parks in the city and 7 new parks that all have lighted fields or courts. There are going to be 10 lighted soccer fields at the CAP basin. Ms. Weiss noted of the 10 fields at the CAP basin only 4 are lighted. Ms. House noted the neighborhood has done an effort to preserve this area. Traffic calming has been installed. This is an area with horse privileges. There are horses in the grass with other uses. We try to educate to what horses do. They don't go toward people they try to get away. There is not much risk of horses trying to get to people. The compromise came up in a neighborhood meeting and we didn't want to give up on the lights. She is irritated that there seems to be some kind of ownership quality to those adjacent to the park. They don't have any more rights than anyone else. Please don't make a decision based on those people as this is a public park and for anyone to use whether walk a dog, bring a horse. Lights are installed at all neighborhood parks. Please move forward with the original recommendation and do not rescind it. Let the neighborhood move forward. Commissioner King asked what time she felt would be good for the lights to be off. Ms. House said the compromise did not consider the lights at all, but 9 or 9:30 pm would be acceptable. Using lower than 35-foot light would be good as they would be less intrusive. Once they are installed the neighbors will realize they are not intrusive. There needs to be some kind of light.

Steven Kunkle wants to clarify some points. Several neighbors sat down and, despite the fact many weren't thrilled with horses in the basin, agreed on that simply because, the few people who use the park with horses at any given time is less than 12, and because we know them and respect their ability to ride, we agreed that even though there is a magnificent risk it is nominal. We agreed to support ridership in the basin. After that meeting some backed away from their position. It is it designed for horses. What we are talking about is the use of lights for a limited number of people. He does not want lights. He wants to come home to peace and quiet and doesn't want the extra activity. Those who really don't have

an interest signed the petitions at feed store. The neighborhood has spoken and they don't want lights. Outsiders are going to come in if there are lights. Chairperson Loper asked if Mr. Kunkle was the driving force behind the compromise. Mr. Kunkle noted he has been vocal. Chairperson Loper noted that one petition was presented as lights at Cocopah or parameters on lights, or alternative heights. Mr. Kunkle said he didn't take petition around.

Kathy Potter - 6811 E. Mescal - lives just west of the park. She is opposed to the park and arena for many reasons such as increased traffic, lights and poles being visible, noise, and precedents lights may set. There are enough lights with Cocopah. There is limited use by users. The compromise was done because we decided to be neighborly and it is agreed that this is a win/win for all. She supports no lights and use of basin. Give each side what they want the most. Review the addresses on the compromise and you will find it is the most credible petition. The soccer teams are gone by 6 pm. There should be times of use for the kids and times of use for the horses. That is good for safety. No one is trying to squeeze anyone out. She doesn't want all the things the lights would bring. She requests the Commission make recommendations as per the terms of the compromise.

LaVoe Potter - 6811 S Mescal Street – lives with her son and family directly across from park. The City proposed lights that are 30 feet high. There would be added traffic; trucks with trailers; and dust created that would be an unsafe environment. Her granddaughter's bedroom is on that side of house. This would be devastating to residents and deprive them of a peaceful evening and a good night's rest. Mescal Park is a flood control place with an added bonus for humans and horses. Please reconsider what you proposed.

Ben Potter lives directly across 68th Place from Mescal Park. The primary function of the park is flood control with an added bonus. There is an argument for no new privileges getting lights and legal basin access. He finds both of these an extreme win/lose situation. He signed the petition for a compromise allowing legal basin access but no lights. That is a win/win proposition. More equestrian uses would create a burden for parking and dust. Light pollution is not the issue but trailering horses in is. Loud trucks draw horse trailers. He is against the lights because of expanded trailering into the community and they would bring outside users into the park. The Commission has a job to maximize uses in the city but at what cost. The neighborhood is divided as to these issues. He has experienced vandalism, horses stomping through his front yard because of his position. Vandalism is not tolerated in the community. Is it in everyone's best interest to create a feud over 10 acres. Join with the neighbors to allow riding in the basin and no lights. Heal the wounds. Return this to a happy neighborhood. Chairperson Loper asked if the lighting is okay if we could resolve the issues around the trailering, parking, and trucks. Mr. Potter said noise is created by traffic. Chairperson Loper asked is there any condition that lights would be acceptable. Mr. Potter said no, under the current conditions.

Dawn Brokaw lives in the Cactus corridor and has been active for horse uses and trails in general. She is confused as to why this is coming back to the Commission and what new information there is. Her experience is that there are a lot of dirty things that go on and there is a hint of that going on here. She was told it was an either/or proposition; have lights or riding in the basin so she signed the compromise as a result. She has heard about people giving lessons to kids. There is a lot of fear that has been instilled about this. People have signed the compromise because of fear. She doesn't see any new information. They can ride in that field according to Risk Management. This is just coming back and asking for a do over because you didn't like the results of the last meeting. The lights are compatible with the Master Plan. Anybody can put in sport court, tennis courts, or riding court. It is compatible with existing uses and compatible with the plan of city. This is part of what we cherish about our city. She doesn't think the compromise is what it appears to be and is heavy handed.

Chairperson Loper asked staff if there has been any consideration to put in lighting equivalent to sport court lighting as he is not convinced this arena needs the higher standard. Ms. Weiss said the standards are guidelines and staff does have information that has standards for various recreational facilities. The gentleman was here earlier stated that 30 foot-candles is a minimum safe standard for an equestrian arena. That standard is equivalent to a little league outfield. To get that in an arena the size of Mescal you cannot do that with shoebox lights that don't have some height. Stonegate is lower than 30-foot candles and the poles are at 33 feet. A typical tennis or basketball court has poles 30 feet high.

Susan Wheeler lives in the Cactus Corridor and signed the petition for lights and riding in the basin. She noted she sat on the commission for 6 years and understands the feelings. There is already light spillage from 2 commercial operations on the south and west sides. Stonegate is a really great arena because it is covered and neighbors don't see many lights. People will not bring in trailers at night. If they are going to do that they would go to Stonegate. The lights at Stonegate are on a timer. Lights protect the neighbors and keep crime away. She wants to compliment the Commission on their first vote. Soccer and horses are a problem. You don't see any horses going to soccer fields and riding. Cars are more of an impact from soccer than riding. It is important to exercise the horse. Citizens have a right to house livestock. It is not a privilege. The only ways to restrict it is through CC&Rs, Deed Restrictions, and laws. It is a delight to see so many horses in the neighborhood. Horse related activities brought \$1.3 billion into the State of Arizona last year and it could turn out to be about \$2 billion now.

Ida Goldstein - 6877 E Gary Road – lives on northeast corner of the park. She submitted the packet with the Mescal Park Master Plan, which was only available on microfiche. The Master Plan calls for no lights. The Master Plan requires approval so she refutes that statement. She is not asking to light whole park just the arena. Ms. Goldstein read from the Facilities Master Plan dated January 2004 page 97 recommending dark skies be accommodated through new lighting technology. We should light existing fields and increase use. That Master Plan includes new fields and upgrades. In the Executive Summary Page V, 83 percent should be utilized. Mescal is located in a zone that needs lighting of outdoor fields. It does not refer just to baseball or softball fields. The dictionary defines a field as an area constructed or equipped for sports. Mescal is just that. It has equipment with the footings and sprinklers. It is only necessary to meet one of the criteria. Please note the City's website lists 25 parks with 18 lighted facilities. There is an e-mail with conflicting information. On the petition with 314 signatures, some who signed that do not live in the neighborhood and are passionate about preserving the development. The signatures from the people in Phoenix use the park. Put lights in arena. Ms. Weiss was talking about fields lit with 80-foot sports field lights. Neighborhood parks do have lighted sports courts but none have 80-foot sports field lights.

Mark Goldstein noted he has no time to go do his sport until evenings. He is asking for lights so kids can use the area. He feels that 9 pm is a perfectly reasonable time for the lights to go off.

Laurie Lill - 6911 E. Paradise Drive – moved here 20 years ago because the area welcomed horses. That was the main attraction. Other than in her backyard, the arena, and the street, there is one open area for riding. Mescal was like a prairie. Over the years it is the safest and only route to take. She was excited about the meeting with Bill Ensign and Dick McGuire. Scottsdale listened. We want to have a safe place to ride. We can share that land with many uses. Riding in the basin was originally included in the Master Plan of the park and that was mentioned in an article from Mr. Ensign a few months later. That privilege was taken from us. It doesn't make sense that horses and grass don't go together. Take another look as to what horse people would like to see. If it were not for horses, soccer, and dogs the park would be idle most of the time. Most parks have lighting along perimeter. There has been inappropriate behavior sometimes. She doesn't live immediate to the park but doesn't see a problem if lights are strategically placed. We should show respect and not take advantage of the privilege. The lights should turn off at 9 or 9:30 pm. The riding time is limited now. Extend the use of the park to its maximum. Equestrians are losing time and space.

Karla Crall - 1201 N. Paradise Drive – has lived here since 1985 and purchased this home in 1999 because of location and schools. These came to the forefront for her when deciding to leave Fountain Hills. She wanted to raise her children in the convenience of a large city but make them responsible for horses. She was thrilled to hear of the improvements at park. She attended the June 15th meeting and was confident the recommendation would be sent to the City Council by now. She attended the Focus Meeting and the division between the residents next to the park and potential uses was evident. Compromises were discussed for the limitation for time of day and lights. She attended another meeting in August. The new information shows that the current Risk Manager is not opposed to equestrian use in the basin. Residents would be accepting the proposed improvements. There is extreme discontent. Please go forward with lights and the use of the grass basin. She questions the last statement that Mescal Park was not a public park and there are already too many kids around. It has a strong family

presence. There is support from soccer teams that played there. Chairperson Loper asked where Ms. Crall got the flyers she gave the commission. She indicated they were handed out in the neighborhood. Chairperson Loper noted they give uninformed impression there would be 80-foot lights at the arena and that is not accurate. Commissioner Anderson asked if Ms. Crall rides to the park now. Ms. Crall said she does. Commissioner Anderson asked what time of day. Ms. Crall said mostly on weekends. Commissioner Anderson asked how long it takes to get there. Ms. Crall said she lives southwest of Cactus and Scottsdale Roads and uses the easement trails so it takes 5 to 7 minutes.

Patty Rosky - 6843 E. Gary Road – lives on the northern perimeter of the park. She has been involved since its inception. Market research determined only 10% of the homes between Scottsdale Road, 64th Street, Shea, and Cactus are equestrian. She is opposed to lighting of the park in any form. Modifying a 20-year Master Plan allows the stage for the rest of park to be lighted at a later date without public input. That process is already in question because of Cocopah. Please don't create another major lighting mistake. The no-lights petition with 206 signatures with 100 from Pueblo Norte, most of those are owners. She is opposed to riding in the basin for safety concerns. There was a typing error on 14 names on the petition; the other 12 are on the north perimeter of the park and across the street. The assumption that the activity level is similar to the path is baseless. The basin could easily reach 25 head and that is hazardous. Some horses are spirited and finely bred. Any riding in the basin should be limited to walking and there should be a permit of \$10 per year for those riding in basin.

Lisa Anders uses the park often and is opposed to adding lights to arena. This is a simple park with no parking not designed for a broader design. Street parking is not compatible for the loading and unloading of horses. She appreciates the offer of improvement but the benefit is not for the majority but for only 10 percent. Don't do unwanted unnecessary improvements.

Erica Thompson - 7001 E. Cortez – has lived north of park since 1976. She signed the petition for one or the other and was misinformed. She thinks that we can designate the area for horse use so why not. The risk of 25 horses is fine. Attendance would be better if the fear of god was not instilled in everyone that they were going to call the police if anyone steps foot in the grass. The traffic is mostly teenagers. There have been no accidents. Horses and soccer don't mix. There is a better place for soccer. It would be great to have the use of the grass back. Not a lot ride in middle of arena.

Anna Lewis - 6802 E. Mescal – bought her home 6 years ago because of the park. It is a unique park for horse people. The grassy area is great. The issue about the lights seemed great. She listened to her neighbors who are against it more than just those next to the park. She is in favor of the compromise. It is her signature that is there twice. There was a change and she didn't scratch it out after the change was made. She appreciates the comments about the conflict of soccer but there aren't many areas to ride. She is concerned about the future of the park and keeping it friendly to equestrians as well as the neighborhood.

Pat Hill - 6844 E. Cholla - lives 1 block from the park. This is a very divisive issue in the neighborhood. Look at those opposing the lights. Her house has been vandalized since this happened and it wasn't accidental. Horses have been ridden on her property. She appreciates and respects the equestrian community. The lights are divisive. The lights at Cocopah were raised as they were originally much lower. Preserve the community and realize how problematic this issue is. She supports the compromise, riding in basin. There is no history of having problems, so give it a chance to continue. She does not support the lights.

Kathy Rushing - 69546 E. Gary – has lived here for 30 years and always had horses. Her husband was an Equine vet. She is concerned about the lights as there are no lights to get to the park. She was called out where horses escaped at night and accidents occurred on Scottsdale or Cholla. The liability is getting to the park. She experienced a couple of people that didn't have control of a horse and could have resulted in an accident a couple of weeks ago. She wants to be considerate of the neighbors. Everyone is trying to work together. You don't need lights. If you can't ride the horse during the day or weekend you will have to work on another plan. Let's be considerate of each other. This has caused a lot of

problems that never existed before. She loves her neighbors. Lets leave it like it was. Go with the riding in the basin.

Terry Richmond - 681 E. Weathesfield – wants to thank the city for the improvements that have already been done. The sprinklers are wetting the area nicely. Horse people are unanimously in favor of opening the bowl. There are many hours when bowl is routinely empty. He rides there weekly in the morning and on Saturday and Sunday. There is an opportunity to share the use of the bowl. He is glad that Risk Management has reconsidered and users now can ride. Even opponents of the lights agree that equestrian use of bowl would be safe. He thinks there is some consensus and there is safe use available in the bowl. He voted last spring to have that. Now with a simple administrative procedure users can use the bowl. He urges the Commission to allow that.

Cindy Mathers - 7019 E. Cortez – has been riding for 30 years in this area and is passionate about the lights. She works and gets home after dark. Horses lose condition if they are not exercised. Please keep with the original decision for the lights and use of the basin. Many people don't know the park is there. The main question is the budget for lights. She isn't opposed to lights. She welcomes the equestrian feel of the neighborhood. Only one person didn't think the city budget should be spent. Please keep the original recommendation.

Laurie Merrill - 10842 N 68th Place – said she took the petition around for no lights. The lights are about 30 feet tall. She supports the compromise to give riders more options and preserve the look and feel of the neighborhood. It seems wrong to add noise, light, and traffic to benefit only a few. Spend the \$150,000 to benefit everyone.

Steven Kunkle speaking for Adam Kaplan noted this is a great horse community. He is not against the horse community. The number of people who use it are so few. Why spend \$150,000 to benefit a few. Use that money to improve the lights at Cocopah or in other areas. No one is saying you can't use the park for horses. No one was presented with an either/or. He would never dream of having horses in a field if kids were playing soccer.

Colleen Canale – 12012 N. 68th Place - said she is new to the community. She has horses and the light issue is an issue of safety for the person who decided to use the park. She hopes lights don't cost \$150,000 or they would give off too much light. She does not believe anyone is going to trailer there when there is no parking. No one would take a horse there and endanger people. Please don't think of the horse community as dwindling, as they work, pay taxes, and did move to this neighborhood because of the equestrian community.

Chairperson Loper closed the public testimony

Chairperson Loper noted there was much information provided this evening. It is not the intent of the Commission to impose its will on the neighborhood. He would be disappointed if some of the events held there ceased. Chairperson Loper said he is disappointed to hear about the events occurring in the neighborhood as described by Ms. Lill and he hopes they will cease. There seems to be a change of heart from the June 15, 2005 meeting among the people that directly border the park. It was evenly split then with the 10 homes. There seems to be a willingness to compromise by those that will be most affected by the lights.

Commissioner Anderson noted that there would be a parking issue as result from soccer also. Why are we importing soccer people to this site. Why do we bring in a team in doesn't live there. Chairperson Loper noted we are not importing anyone. There is a shortage of fields and they are practicing wherever they can. Commissioner Anderson noted they don't live there so what is the difference. There should be no parking zones to protect the residents. Ms. Weiss noted that the Traffic Engineers attended the August meeting and talked about options. There are a variety of issues about parking in this area. There is parking on the master plan. Several facilities were approved but never built, and it could be a lack of funding, the neighbors didn't want it, or something else. Neighborhood parks are designed to serve the neighborhood. Most do have small parking lots. Chairperson Loper is correct about the balance of finding a place to play. Public parking is allowed on public streets. Ms. Weiss said there are no

restrictions that would not allow equestrians to trailer in to the park. There is no sign saying no trailer parking. Commissioner Anderson noted she has heard a lot of conversation about it not being a desired use. Why is trailering different from parking for soccer uses. Ms. Weiss said there is no difference. Anyone can trailer his or her horse in now. Commissioner Anderson asked if consideration is being given to limiting parking in the future. Ms. Weiss said there are many issues and unintended consequences when there are no parking areas. If you squeeze no parking in one place, people will go to another. This is a complicated issue and Traffic Engineering is looking at how to make it more efficient and get emergency vehicles in without impacting the character of the neighborhood. Commissioner Anderson noted she couldn't find any compelling reason in changing that, which was previously recommended.

Commissioner Faramelli noted he is having a hard time finding what new information came to light that would ask the Commission to reconsider a thoughtful decision they made on June 15th. He hopes we didn't waste 4 months of time for this to occur.

Chairperson Loper noted he is hoping for an epiphany. The only thing different from June 15th meeting is the bordering homes were evenly split but are now in favor of not installing lights. They are okay with riding in basin. He asked are lights an either/or, or do we have to have 30 foot lights. Is there any leeway for how many and how bright they are. We need to do something to resolve the parking issue. Ms. Weiss noted there are many options for lights. We would go as low as possible and maintain a safe arena surface. Experience dictates the poles are going to be about 33 feet high. If we can go lower we will do that. If we need to paint the poles a compatible color we will do that. The desire is to have a safe surface so no one gets hurt. Traffic Engineering is working on the parking. Chairperson Loper asked if some change is in the works now to address the parking. Ms. Weiss said she does not know what changes are being planned but they are working on it.

Commissioner Faramelli noted that the Development Review Board was created to look at the best design for parks and will do that at this park. Any recommendation should mention they pay particular attention to that design. We need to just build the parking as it is already in the Master Plan.

Vice-chair Cerimeli wanted to know what was new to change the decision from the last meeting. There is not much of a difference. There is an attempt at a compromise. The residents don't seem to mind horses in the basin. The lights are the big issue, along with traffic, noise, and activity. He feels that 15 kids playing soccer is noisier than horses. It is a park and it is a horse park. We should do anything to maintain the fact that it is a horse park. He would not support changing his decision.

Commissioner King noted this is a divisive issue. The neighborhood has fallen apart. The grass area is okay to share. There was new information that Risk Management was okay with the use of the basin on a trial basis. One hundred and twenty-six horses is a lot of horses in a neighborhood. There are existing lights nearby. The Development Review Board will be another process that will provide the opportunity for another public hearing. The Master Plan has parking and there should be a parking lot. The danger is more people will drive there if there is parking but he doesn't think so. This is a nice tight neighborhood. The lights should go off at a reasonable time. He would encourage staff to mitigate the lights through DRB, and to put in a parking lot.

Chairperson Loper asked if the \$150,000 was allocated to put in lights. Ms. Weiss said the \$150,000 was for park improvements. Chairperson Loper asked if that could be anything from a parking lot to a bathroom, and are there limitations. Ms. Weiss said that was correct and there are no limitations. Any improvements would have to go through a public process. Chairperson Loper asked at what time do we get asked the question is that your final answer. This is the second time this has come to the Commission. Ms. Weiss said the parking lot was on the Master Plan so it would not come back to the Commission. The reason that has not been completed could have been lack of funding, resistance from the neighbors, just as the bathroom and picnic ramada are not built either. Previous desires of neighborhood precluded those from being done.

Commissioner Anderson noted it seemed they were unanimous in not wanting the parking lot. She is struggling with a way to help the neighborhood. She recommends leaving it as previously decided.

Chairperson Loper noted it doesn't say in the Executive Summary of the Facilities Master Plan that there is going to be stadium lights. Planning Zone B highest need for lighted outdoor sports fields. He is trying to reconcile how we allocated the \$150,000 since the Facilities Master Plan stated that this area needs more lights. On the other hand he hears that 10 homes that surround the park don't want lights. Ms. Weiss noted the Facilities Master Plan is referring to outdoor field sports lights with 80ft high poles. That is the intent. Chairperson Loper noted he doesn't read it that way. He doesn't know what the right thing is to do.

Vice-chair Cerimeli noted he wouldn't change his decision. He suggested staff do a complete light study on the intrusion to the neighbors. He recommends staff take the petitions and do a site map showing how many people live in a ¼ or ½ mile radius. Ms. Weiss we know now that the spill light at the Potter residence will be virtually nothing. Technology is that good now that you can straddle darkness and lightness. You can see the light source but will not experience the spill and glare. Staff does not usually analyze petitions. These are citizen driven petitions.

Commissioner King noted when this does go through DRB they attempt to mitigate concerns. We should take a look at the parking right now. He asked if we have an estimate on the cost of lights. Ms. Weiss said the \$150,000 came from an estimate of cost for the high end of upgrading the arena. We will probably be able to do the lights for less than that. Commissioner King recommends limiting the use at night.

Commissioner Anderson does not want to amend the motion to include anything with parking.

There was no motion made by the Commission to rescind their previous action on June 15, 2005. The Commission stands by their original recommendation.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K))

The staff report was tabled.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC (A.R.S. § 38-431.02)

Chairperson Loper called for any items from the floor or the Commission. There were none.

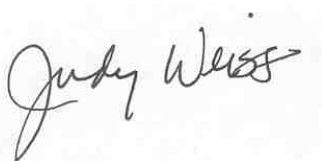
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Faramelli seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

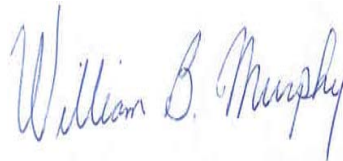
With no further business to be brought before the Commission, Chairperson Loper adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Johnson, Recording Secretary

Meets established criteria.



Judy Weiss, Director
Parks and Recreation



William B. Murphy, Director
Parks and Grounds Management